

10th Annual National Conservation Systems Cotton & Rice Conference Returns to Houston

Learn to trim inputs and increase yields at the South's leading conference

HOUSTON, Texas - Ways to increase agricultural production while lowering costs will highlight the topics presented at the Southern United States' leading Conservation Systems Conference. The 10th Annual National Conservation Systems Cotton & Rice Conference will return to the Omni Houston Hotel Westside in Houston, Texas, Jan. 29-30, 2007, sponsored by Cotton Incorporated and US Rice Producers Association.

The conference is co-sponsored by the University of Arkansas, Louisiana State University, Mississippi State University, University of Missouri, University of Tennessee, Auburn University, Texas A&M, USDA-NRCS in Washington DC and USDA-ARS centers in the Southern States. The conference also has four corporate co-sponsors which are Delta & Pine Land Co., Helena Chemical Co., Horizon Ag and RiceTec.

This conference is unique in its 100-plus breakout sessions presented by university researchers, industrial researchers and 43 full-time farmers from the Southern States. The 43 farmers bring something to this conference that cannot be found at any other conference in the United States. The breakout sessions presented by farmers will showcase the production systems used on their farms to profitably produce cotton, rice, corn, sorghum and soybeans.

"These producers are the innovators," John LaRose, chairman of the steering committee, said. "Some are even ahead of the researchers. They are innovative and have proven these techniques on large scale operations as well as small acre fields. They have taken the ideas that the researchers have developed and added some innovative ideas of their own, integrating them into successful money-making farming operations." All this expertise will be available to those who attend the conference in January.

In addition to the breakout sessions, attendees can participate in one of the eight specially focused Roundtable Sessions where in-depth discussions by attendees wanting to talk about the same concerns will be addressed.

For those who have an interest in the latest Precision Agriculture technology and applications, attendees can take part in any or all of the Breakout Sessions on Precision Agriculture, presented by leading researchers and producers.

Addressing the conference during the Opening Session will be Bob Stallman, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation. The keynote speaker for the noon luncheon will be announced at a later date.

Another highlight of this year's conference is the Farm Bill Panelists who will discuss the 2007 Farm Bill. Experts on the panel will be Pat O'Brien, economist, American Farm Bureau in Washington DC, Craig Brown, Vice President of producer affairs for the National Cotton Council, Memphis, TN and Louie Perry, Vice President of Cornerstone Government Affairs in Washington DC. Following their presentations, the session will open for discussion from the floor. This is expected to be a very lively and informative session.

A must-attend event for honing production methods, this conference offers farmers ways to trim inputs while boosting yields. In recent years, farmers and their landlords have found that, beyond tillage, there are many other farming resources that can be conserved through a properly designed conservation systems program. The importance of conserving soil moisture and reducing fuel, labor, seed, chemical and other input costs has been a key to economic survival for many producers.

"The main emphasis of the conference is reducing production costs and increasing yields in cotton, rice, corn, sorghum and soybeans through precision agriculture in its many forms," said John LaRose.

"Don't pass up this perfect opportunity to get out and communicate with the presenters and others attending the conference," LaRose said. "It's not often you have the chance to learn from the experts – researchers and producers – who have made these new ideas work."

For further information on the conference or to register, visit the website at www.nctd.net, or call Robin Moll at 573-547-7212.

